

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /062 W  
-----042203 151057Z /23

O 150953Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7737

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, CB, TH

SUBJ: OPENING PHASE OF IENG SARY VISIT TO THAILAND

REF: A. BANGKOK L9668, B. STATE L77955

1. SUMMARY: SARY RECEIVED A WARM WELCOME TO THAILAND JULY  
14. AFTER BRIEF ARRIVAL CEREMONIES AT THE BORDER AND IN  
BANGKOK, SARY AND UPPADIT BEGAN AN INITIAL ROUND OF DIS-  
CUSSIONS FOCUSSEING ON BORDER PROBLEMS, EXCHANGE OF EM-  
BASSIES AND AMBASSADORS, AND REACTIVATION OF THE BORDER  
LIAISON COMMITTEES. SARY PROMISED TO "CORRECT MISUNDER-  
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STANDINGS" WHICH, HE SAID, CAUSE THE BORDER PROBLEMS.  
HE, SEEMINGLY, HAS DEMURRED FOR THE MOMENT ON EMBASSIES  
AND THE BORDER COMMITTEES. RESULTS THUS FAR APPEAR IN-  
CONCLUSIVE. FURTHER TALKS ARE SCHEDULED FOR JULY 15 AND  
16, PRIOR TO SARY'S DEPARTURE JULY 17. END SUMMARY.

2. DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEAN DEPUTY PM AND FONMIN IENG SARY

AND HIS SEVEN MAN DELEGATION STRODE ACROSS THE BRIDGE SEPARATING ARANAYAPRATHET, THAILAND, AND POIPET, CAMBODIA, AT ABOUT 9 A.M. JULY 14. HE WAS MET BY FONMIN UPPADIT AND ARMY COMMANDER IN CHIEF GENERAL SERM NO NAKHORN. IN A BRIEF ARRIVAL STATEMENT TO A BARRIAGE OF THAI AND FOREIGN NEWSPEOPLE, SARY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT HIS VISIT WOULD STRENGTHEN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THAILAND AND CAMBODIA WHICH WOULD BETTER DEVELOP THE RELATION OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES." SUBSEQUENTLY, SARY, CLAD IN A MAO-STYLE SUIT, AND HIS PARTY WERE WHISKED AWAY IN LIMOUSINES TO THE SURASINGHANART BARRACKS IN ARANYAPRATHET FOR AN HONOR GUARD RECEPTION. AFTER THE BRIEF RECEPTION, THE SARY PARTY, ACCOMPANIED BY FONMIN APPADIT, MOTORED TO BANGKOK, WHERE THEY ARRIVED AT 1330 AT THE ORIENTAL HOTEL, WHERE THE CAMBODIANS ARE STAYING.

3. SARY WAS WELCOMED AT THE HOTEL BY DEPUTY PM SUNTHORN HONGLADAROM, SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, AND A CHOSEN GROUP FROM THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. MFA INVITED SELECTED AMBASSADORS TO THE WELCOMING CEREMONY. ALL THE ASEAN AMBASSADORS, THE PRC AND YUGOSLAV CHARGES, AND AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR WERE SEEN. DUTCH AMBASSADOR APPARENTLY WAS NOT INVITED ALTHOUGH THE NETHERLANDS HAS ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PHNOM PENH. RUSSIAN, VIETNAMESE AND LAOTIAN ENVOYS DID NOT ATTEND. UK DECLINED. (THAIS TACTFULLY DID NOT INVITE US, KNOWING WE WOULD NOT ATTEND.) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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4. SARY AND APPADIT UNDERTOOK NEARLY TWO HOURS OF INTERSIVE TALKS IN THE AFTERNOON JULY 14. THAI DEPUTY COMMERCE MINISTER PROK AMMANAN, DEPUTY AGRICULTURE MINISTER APHORN SIPHIPHAT, AND SECY GENERAL OF THE NSC GENERAL SITTHI SAWETASILA ALSO ATTENDED THE DISCUSSIONS. AFTERWARDS, FONMIN UPPADIT TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE BORDER DIFFICULTIES, EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS, AND REACTIVATING THE BORDER LIAISON OFFICES HAD BEEN DISCUSSED. UPPADIT TOLD REPORTERS THAT BOTH SIDES HAD CONCEDED THAT "MISUNDERSTANDINGS" HAS CAUSED THE BORDER DIFFICULTIES. ACCORDING TO UPPADIT, SARY PROMISED TO "CORRECT THESE MISUNDERSTANDINGS". SARY ALSO REAFFIRMED HIS GOVERNMENT'S RECOGNITION OF THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, ESPECIALLY THE ONE CALLING FOR NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER NATIONS, ACCORDING TO UPPADIT.

5. ON THE DISCUSSION OF RE-OPENING EMBASSIES AND EXCHANGING AMBASSADORS, UPPADIT SAID THAT SARY TOLD HIM PHNOM PENH WAS STILL TRYING TO FIND A SUITABLE PERSON TO ASSUME THE AMBASSADORIAL POST IN BANGKOK. SARY ALSO REFERRED TO BUDGETARY PROBLEMS IN THIS CONNECTION. UPPADIT OFFERED

TO PROVIDE THAI WORKERS TO MAINTAIN THE EMBASSY IN BANGKOK. SARY AND UPPADIT ALSO DISCUSSED INCONCLUSIVELY THE REACTIVATION OF THE BORDER LIAISON OFFICES IN ARANYAPRATHET AND POIPET. ON BOTH THE LIAISON OFFICES AND EMBASSIES, SARY PROMISED TO RESPOND AFTER HIS RETURN TO CAMBODIA FROM THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE.

6. UPPADIT SAID THAT THEE MIGHT NOT REPEAT NOT BE A COMMUNIQUE SINCE THE COMMUNIQUE SIGNED IN OCTOBER 1975, ESTABLISHING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE NEW REGIME AND BANGKOK, IS STILL VALID.

7. AT A BANQUET HOSTED BY FONMIN UPPADIT IN THE EVENING OF JULY 14 IN THE HONOR OF SARY AND HIS PARTY, SARY SAID THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIVING CONDITIONS IN HIS COUNTRY HAD GREATLY IMPROVED SINCE THE KHMER ROUGE TOOK POWER. ACCORDING TO SARY, THE PEOPLE HAVE ENOUGH FOOD, HOUSING AND CLOTHES AND HEALTH HAS GREATLY IMPROVED. BY HIS ACCOUNT, "ILLITERACY HAS BEEN FUNDAMENTALLY WIPE OUT AND THE WHOLE PEOPLE ENJOY EDUCATION." SARY ALSO APPARENTLY GAVE A SIMILAR FUN-DOWN IN HIS MEETING WITH UPPADIT.

8. IN HIS BANQUET SPEECH, SARY ALSO STRESSED HIS DESIRE FOR FRIENDSHIP WITH THAILAND "BASED ON INDEPENDENCE, EQUALITY,

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INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00  
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O 151003Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7738  
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

9. FURTHER TALKS WITH UPPADIT ARE SCHEDULED FOR JULY 15 AND SARY WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE KING EARLY IN THE EVENING. HE IS EXPECTED TO CONFER WITH PM KRIANGSAK POSSIBLY AT A DINNER JULY 15 AND N TALKS JULY 16. AFTER INITIALLY AGREEING TO DISCUSS "CAMBODIA TODAY" AT THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CLUB, THE MEETING WAS LATER CANCELLED BECAUSE OF SARY'S "TIGHT SCHEDULE." HOWEVER, UNLIKE DURING HIS VISIT IN OCTOBER 1975 WHEN SARY REFUSED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS POSED BY FOREIGN JOURNALISTS, SARY WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE ORIENTAL HOTEL AT FIVE P.M. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE JULY 17. PRESS JULY 14 REPORTED THAT SARY WOULD DEPART BANGKOK AROUND SIX P.M. JULY 17 ON A KLM  
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FLIGHT TO JAKARTA. (WE HAVE NO RPT NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS. SEE BANGKOK 19126.)

10. COMMENT: AS EXPECTED, THE THAIS ARE PROVIDING SARY A VERY WARM, HIGH LEVEL WELCOME. PUBLICLY, SARY HAS BEEN RELAXED, COMPOSED, AND GRINNING. AS N THE PAST, FONMIN UPPADIT IS TAKING A VERY UPBEAT, POSITIVE TONE IN DESCRIBING THE MEETINGS. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THE MOST SERIOUS EXCHANGES ON THE CENTRAL ISSUE OF BORDER INCIDENTS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY OCCUR IN SARY'S MEETING WITH PM

KRIANGSAK. O'DONOHUE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** MINISTERIAL VISITS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**TAGS:** PEPR, PDIP, CB, TH, (IENG SARY)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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